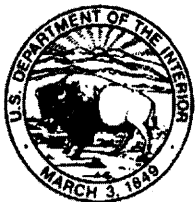


0034



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement

P.O. Box 46667

Denver, Colorado 80201-6667

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UT-0023

July 6, 2006

Utah Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining
Coal Regulatory Program
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

RECEIVED

JUL 10 2006

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Heong
C/007/0019
Task 0542

RE: Canyon Fuel Company, LLC. - "Soldier Canyon" Mine - Application for a Permit Revision, Revision to Appendix 2F, Task ID No. 2542

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining's (UT-DOGM) June 6, 2006, request for a decision, under 30 CFR 944.30, whether the above subject permit revision constitutes a mining plan modification.

Mining plan approvals by the Secretary of the Interior are required under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, 30 U.S.C. 181, *et seq.* before coal mining can occur on Federal lands. This letter serves to document OSM's determination whether or not a mining plan approval from the Secretary is required for the above permitting action.

OSM's review of the Application for a Permit Revision, Revision to Appendix 2F, has determined that it proposes to add a revised Plate 2-3 depicting topsoil pile locations and volumes to the approved permit application package for the Soldier Canyon mine, Utah State permit C/007/018.

Based on a review of the activities associated with the permit revision, OSM has determined that the proposal does not meet the requirements of 30 CFR 746.18(d). Therefore, the proposed permit revision does not constitute a mining plan action requiring Secretarial approval.

OSM's decision was based solely upon the Federal regulations under 30 CFR PART 746 and not the technical aspects of the revision application itself. Consequently, OSM's decision does not relieve UT-DOGM from coordinating the review and approval of the Application for a Permit Revision, Revision to Appendix 2F, with other Federal agencies for compliance with other Federal regulations.

OSM also electronically transmitted the June 6, 2006, request to the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service for their review and comment.

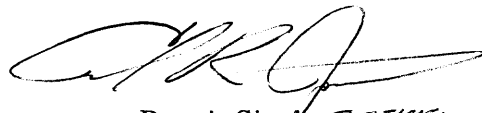
In an electronic submittal dated June 14, 2006, the U.S. Forest service stated it had no comments or concerns with the permit revision.

The Bureau of Land Management did not provide any comments in the thirty day time frame established by the Federal regulations under 30 CFR 944.30, Article VI. D.

Please notify the applicant of our decision on this matter.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter or approval, please contact Carl R. Johnston, Utah Federal Lands coordinator, at (303) 844-1400, extension 1500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ranvir Singh', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Ranvir Singh *acting*
Manager, Northwest Branch

cc: BLM - Utah State Office
BLM - Price Field Office
USFS - Manti-La Sal NF
Denver Field Division